

That which is claimed:

1. A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

- spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;
- de-registering the crimped tow;
- shaping the de-registered tow; and
- distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a line speed of the particulate laden, shaped tow being greater than 190 m/min.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the line speed being greater than 225 m/min.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

5. A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;

de-registering the crimped tow;

shaping the de-registered tow; and

distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a ratio of tow line speed exiting from de-registration to tow line speed of particulate laden, shaped tow being in the range of 1.8 to 3.0.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the ratio being 2.4.

7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

9. An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;

means for de-registering the crimped tow;

means for shaping the de-registered tow; and

means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a line speed of the particulate laden, shaped tow being greater than 190 m/min.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the line speed being greater than 225 m/min.

11. The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.

13. An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel;

means for de-registering the crimped tow;

means for shaping the de-registered tow; and

means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein a ratio of tow line speed exiting from de-registration to tow line speed of particulate laden, shaped tow being in the range of 1.8 to 3.0.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the ratio being 2.4.

15. The apparatus of Claim 13 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

16. The apparatus of Claim 13 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.